BROWN'S BRIEFCASE

BY MARSHA BROWN

Wal-Mart set for revamp?

WEATHERFORD — Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has received a building permit to remodel its Weatherford Supercenter.

No word on when the project will take place, or for that matter if.

"We've been updating some of our Supercenters," Wal-Mart Spokeswoman Laura Pope said. "But this project isn't definite. With a project like this, we have to go through several different processes. That includes obtaining a permit. It's still under review."

That sounds like a definite maybe.

Wal-Mart opened its Weatherford Supercenter in May, 1994.

"Supercenters have been around for 10 years now," Pope said. "So, I guess it's time we start remodeling some of them."

Wal-Mart opened its first store in 1962 in Rogers, Ark. In 1983, the first Sam's Club opened in Midwest, Ok. In 1988 the first Supercenter was opened in Washington, Mo. Wal-Mart became a national retailer in 1991, with a store opening in Mexico City.

There are now 2,391 Wal-Mart stores (this includes 513 Supercenters) throughout the world.

These stores generated $117.9 billion last (fiscal) year. That represents a 12 percent increase in sales over the previous year.

Wal-Mart opened its first Weatherford store in 1987.

Keyed into to the local market

WEATHERFORD — Barbara Pask has opened her own real estate brokerage firm on Fort Worth Street called Gold Key Realtors.

Pask purchased the Farm Bureau Building for an undisclosed sum, as headquarters for her realty.

"I just decided it was time," said Pask, who worked for 15 years with Century 21, Jim Duncan.

"We sell anything — residential, commercial, farms and ranches," Pask said. "We're happy only if our customers are happy."

Gold Key has two sales associates, Cinda Letson, who has spent nine years in real estate and Jane Denbow, who has worked in real estate since 1981.

"I've been in real estate since 1979," Pask said. "I've been a broker since 1982.

When I moved to Weatherford, my husband and I were buying rental property. I decided I could sell the property to myself rather than pay an agent commission.

When I had three babies I found it really convenient to continue in real estate."

Barbara is married to Mike Pask, a senior consultant for a corporate executive search firm. They've been married for 24 years.

"I had reached the point in my career when I felt it was time to have my own firm," Pask said. "I incorporate the experience and knowledge gathered from 20 year of experience in Parker County real estate. We are dedicated, professional, knowledgeable agents that bring to our buyers and sellers a great deal of knowledge. Ethics are a priority to this firm."

The firm is independent. The name was a result of the Pask's brainstorming session.

"The idea came from 'call us for your real estate needs, we hold the key to your future,' Pask said. "I just liked the name."

The firm is now open for business.

"It's wonderful fun — we're having a wonderful time — we're very, very busy," Pask said. "We're excited about helping our clients."

The building appealed to Pask for a number of reasons besides location, location and location.

"When I received my real estate license I worked for Red Barn Realty in that building," Pask said. "It's like coming full circle."